GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6020
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
ESTABLISHMENT OF HYBRID RICE MISSION
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has recommended establishment of Hybrid Rice Mission to propagate the use of hybrid rice;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations;

(c) whether the Government propose to commercialize the hybrid rice;

(d) whether such hybrid rice will be advantageous over high yielding variety rice;

(e) whether the existing extension network in the country is inadequate to propagate any new varieties of rice;

(f) if so, the steps taken to strengthen the extension network; and

(g) the funds ear-marked for such a Rice Mission?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of the high potential yield of hybrid rice, there is a definite advantage over high yielding rice varieties. The rice hybrids have an yield advantage of about I t/ha (I 5-20%) over the existing high yielding varieties

(e) & (f): Agricultural extension is a state subject, however the Government of India supports states efforts to strengthen extension services. The steps taken in this regard include the following

- training and exposure visits to the farmers and extension functionaries,

- support to non-government organizations and farmer organizations,

- assisting state agricultural universities in organizing Kisan Melas, print and electronic media activities

- new institutional arrangements are being pilot tested for technology dissemination under National Agricultural Technology Project in seven states namely; A.P, Bihar, H.P., Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Punjab & Orissa.The focus of this approach is working through strategic planning, empowerment of farmers, private sector participation etc.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research plays a facilitatory role through its frontline extension programmes with a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), the activities of which include technology evaluation and assessment of its impact through on-farm testing and frontline demonstrations, and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel for propagating new varieties of rice.

(g) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.